

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-5 are amended and claims 6-14 are cancelled without any prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Support for the amendments to claims 1-5 can be found, for example, at paragraphs [0005]-[0013]. Accordingly, no new matter is added.

I. Claim Objections

The Office Action objects to claims 3-5 for informalities. Claims 3-5 have been amended responsive to the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. 35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph for insufficient antecedent basis. Claims 2, 4 and 5 have been amended responsive to the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claim 1-5 under 35 U.S.C §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0008725 A1 (hereinafter "Katsuragi"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to recite "a method of cleaning a passage including a liquid droplet ejection head and a conduit to feed a manufacture solution to the liquid droplet ejection head, the method comprising: filling the passage with purified water; replacing the purified water with a first solvent capable of dissolving both a second solvent contained in the manufacture solution and the purified water; and replacing the first solvent with the second solvent contained in the manufacture solution" (emphasis added).

The Office Action alleges that "the language of claim 1 is broad and does not require a particular order of steps." Further, the Office Action alleges that "the specification does not

expressly define the term 'functional solution' as to differentiate it from the claimed 'purified water' or 'solvent dissolving both a solvent contained in the functional solution and the purified water.'" By this Amendment, Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are clear and the claimed manufacture solution is sufficiently differentiated from the purified water and the solvents.

Further, Katsuragi fails to disclose each and every feature of independent claim 1. Specifically, Katsuragi fails to disclose a manufacture solution and a first solvent capable of dissolving both a second solvent contained in the manufacture solution and the purified water. Further, Katsuragi fails to disclose replacing the purified water with a first solvent capable of dissolving both a second solvent contained in the manufacture solution and the purified water and replacing the first solvent with the second solvent contained in the manufacture solution. Claim 1 is patentable over Katsuragi.

Claims 2, 4 and 5 have been amended similarly to claim 1. Therefore, claims 2, 4 and 5 are patentable over Katsuragi. Further, claim 3 is patentable for at least its dependency from claim 1 as well for the additional features it recites. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Double Patenting Rejection

The Office Action provisionally rejects claims 1-5 on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-2 of co-pending Application Serial No. 10/827,317. Applicant will address the merits of this rejection if it matures into an actual rejection.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Linda M. Saltiel
Registration No. 51,122

JAO:KRD/eks

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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